



**Students' Association
Film and Television Institute of India,
Law College Road,
Pune: 411004**

Pune
22-07-2015

FTII STRIKE: Day 41

On 20th of July 2015, in his first meeting with the students, the new FTII Director Shri Prasanth Pathrabe stated that the I&B Ministry was willing to open a dialogue only if the students took back their demand of dissolution of the FTII Society. Despite the students consecutively sending four letters of request to renew dialogue, the Ministry's current stand is indeed disheartening.

In the last few days, following provocative acts of vandalism on the FTII Campus, students most of whom are staying away from home, feel threatened and vulnerable. While the culprits are yet to be identified or apprehended for the offense, students are determined to mobilize every means of democratic protest available to them.

As informed, we are sending letters to various Members of Parliament across all political parties including the parties in power, asking them to extend support towards our cause. We are hopeful that our elected representatives will intervene in this matter and raise questions on the same in the ongoing monsoon session of the parliament. Since the contentious appointments to FTII Society are part of a larger phenomenon affecting the autonomy of many institutes and organizations across the country. In this regard, they are accountable to all the concerned citizens of this country.

As all our repeated efforts in trying to open a channel of communication with the I & B Ministry stand ignored, we are left with little option but to escalate our protest and make our voices heard in the power corridors of New Delhi. FTII students will rally to jointly protest both in New Delhi and Pune on the 3rd of August 2015.

With the FTII strike catching national attention, it has come to our notice that certain sections of media are floating factually incorrect reports that malign Students' integrity. They often quote from vague 'Ministry Sources'. We condemn these reports and ask these media organizations to clarify the names and designations of their sources, who seem to communicate more with the media than with the students. We sincerely request all journalists, reporters and media organizations to desist from this fruitless sensationalizing of news, which only trivialize than encourage a healthy debate over this rather important issue of national concern.

We urge our friends in media to confirm facts before putting out reports pertaining to the current FTII society imbroglio. In the spirit of responsible journalism and a collective responsibility owed to the people of this country, we urge you to verify facts with as many sources as possible, including the students. The People of India have the right to truthful representations borne of objective reporting.

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